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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board

Compendium of decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2018

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First regular session

2018/1
Country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* that the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Ghana, Jordan and Mauritania (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.1-E/ICEF/2018/P/L.3) were made available to Member States for their comments and input from 13 November to 1 December 2017 and that the common country programme document, including the aggregate indicative budget, for Cabo Verde (DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1) was made available to Member States for their comments and input from 30 October to 17 November 2017, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1 on modifications to procedures for consideration and approval of country programme documentation;

2. *Approves* on a no-objection basis and in accordance with decision 2014/1 the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Ghana, Jordan and Mauritania (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.1-E/ICEF/2018/P/L.3) and the common country programme document, including the aggregate indicative budget, for Cabo Verde (DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1).

First regular session
6 February 2018

2018/2
Evaluation report and management response, road map to a revision of the evaluation policy of UNICEF and plan for global evaluations, 2018–2021

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the evaluation synthesis report entitled "Towards improved emergency responses: synthesis of UNICEF evaluations of humanitarian action 2010–2016" and its executive summary (E/ICEF/2018/4), including its findings, conclusions and recommendations;

2. *Welcomes* the management response to the evaluation synthesis report (E/ICEF/2018/5), including actions to improve performance in humanitarian contexts and strengthen policy guidance and programming;

3. *Requests* UNICEF to provide an update to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2019 on the implementation of the actions to which UNICEF committed in its management response to the evaluation synthesis report;

4. *Welcomes* the plan for global evaluations, 2018–2021 (E/ICEF/2018/3);

5. *Requests* UNICEF to continue to draw on lessons learned from previous reviews, evaluation reports and management responses to ensure the effectiveness of planned evaluations;

6. *Also requests* UNICEF to present with each evaluation report a formal management response setting out actions and a timetable for implementation;

7. *Further requests* UNICEF to include in the annual report on the evaluation function in UNICEF the details of the implementation of recommendations set out in

evaluation reports and agreed to in management responses, in order to monitor progress, including any implementation issues;

8. *Requests* UNICEF to seek out opportunities with other United Nations agencies for joint evaluations of joint programming as well as the common chapter of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;

9. *Endorses* the plan for global evaluations, 2018–2021;

10. *Welcomes* the preparation of the revised evaluation policy of UNICEF, including plans for consultation with Member States; requests UNICEF to take on-board guidance from previous decisions, evaluations, reports and reviews to improve the independence, credibility, effectiveness, resources and utility of the evaluation function; and also requests UNICEF to present the policy for consideration and decision at the annual session of 2018.

First regular session
7 February 2018

2018/3
UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 and report of the Board of Auditors

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2016 (A/72/5/Add.3) as well as recommendations from prior years;

2. *Notes* the 2016 unqualified audit opinion issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for UNICEF;

3. *Also notes* the finding of the Board of Auditors that UNICEF has, in recent years, taken steps to strengthen financial and managerial control over its operations;

4. *Encourages* UNICEF to prioritize the implementation of the seven main audit recommendations identified by the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2016;

5. *Also encourages* UNICEF to fully address outstanding recommendations from previous reports of the Board of Auditors, and in particular to strengthen efforts to tackle areas of recurring audit recommendations;

6. *Requests* UNICEF to continue its efforts to prevent and detect instances of fraud, to thoroughly review the underlying circumstances that led to the cases of fraud in order to minimize future risks and to take steps to improve actions for the recovery of funds;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to provide a separate management response to the key findings and recommendations of the annual report of the Board of Auditors, and to submit this report to the Executive Board, along with the annual report of the Board of Auditors, starting with the first regular session of 2019.

First regular session
7 February 2018

2018/4
Private Fundraising and Partnerships: 2018 workplan and proposed budget

A. Private Fundraising and Partnerships budgeted expenses for the 2018 fiscal year (special purpose)

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* for the fiscal year 2018 (1 January to 31 December) budgeted special purpose expenses of $223 million, as detailed in the table below.

(Millions of United States dollars)

Investment fund costs funded by special purpose regular resources	105.0
Other private sector fundraising costs funded by special purpose regular resources	64.4
Total private sector fundraising and partnership costs funded by special purpose regular resources	**169.4**
Private sector fundraising and partnership costs funded by special purpose other resources	**53.6**
Total special purpose expenses	**223.0**

2. *Authorizes* UNICEF

(a) To incur expenses, as summarized in column II of table 3 of the document E/ICEF/2018/AB/L.1, and to decrease or increase expenses up to the levels indicated in columns I and III of the same table, should the apparent revenue from fundraising decrease or increase to the levels indicated in columns I and III;

(b) To redeploy resources between the various regular resources budget lines (as detailed in paragraph 1, above), up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2018 approved workplan;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to identify and respond to new market opportunities, should they arise, between Executive Board sessions and to notify the Board accordingly;

4. *Requests* UNICEF to present, as part of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, a review of the impact of its non-financial engagement with the private sector and, in 2021, a review of the impact of the investment funds.

B. Budgeted revenue for the year 2018

The Executive Board

Notes that, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018, Private Fundraising and Partnerships revenue is budgeted at $1.6 billion, as shown in column II of table 3 of document E/ICEF/2018/AB/L.1.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the allocation of investment funds amounting to $105 million for 2018;

2. *Also approves* an interim one-month allocation for January 2019 of $16.9 million (or 10 per cent of the special purpose regular resources allocation of $169.4 million), to be absorbed in the annual Private Fundraising and Partnerships budget for 2019.

First regular session
7 February 2018

Annual session

2018/5
Country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* that the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.4–E/ICEF/2018/P/L.6) were made available to Member States for their comments and input from 16 March to 5 April 2018, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1 on modifications to procedures for consideration and approval of country programme documentation;

2. *Approves* on a no-objection basis, and in accordance with decision 2014/1, the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.4–E/ICEF/2018/P/L.6).

Annual session
12 June 2018

2018/6
Extensions of ongoing country programmes

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Congo, Cuba, Mexico and Sierra Leone, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1 of document E/ICEF/2018/P/L.7;

2. *Approves* the one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following a previous one-year extension, as presented in table 2 of document E/ICEF/2018/P/L.7.

Annual session
11 June 2018

2018/7
Annual report for 2017 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2017 of the Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/2018/9), including the report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and achievements against the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014–2017 (E/ICEF/2018/9/Add.1), the annex on UNICEF implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2017 and the data companion and scorecard;

2. *Also takes note* of the UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/ICEF/2018/11);

3. *Decides* to transmit the above-mentioned reports to the Economic and Social Council, along with a summary of the comments and guidance of the Executive Board;

4. *Recognizes* the inter-agency efforts being made to advance the common chapter and requests UNICEF to continue consultations with the United Nations funds and programmes on the harmonized format for common chapter reporting;

5. *Welcomes* the mentioning of the common chapter in the annual report and asks UNICEF to report on the status of the implementation of the common chapter, starting with the annual report for 2018 of the Executive Director, and to present the findings at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards and at the annual session;

6. *Requests* UNICEF to continue to engage with the Secretary-General, other United Nations development system entities and Member States with a view to supporting the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279, including its contribution to a smooth transition and business continuity of the resident coordinator system;

7. *Also requests* UNICEF, as a United Nations development system entity, to engage closely with the Secretary-General and Member States to support the preparation of a well-thought-out implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including on the operationalization of its funding arrangements, to be presented to the General Assembly;

8. *Further requests* UNICEF to present a preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of resolution 72/279 for UNICEF to the Executive Board at its second regular session in 2018;

9. *Requests* UNICEF, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to provide its contribution to the adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system, in line with the forthcoming implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system to be presented to the General Assembly, on an annual basis starting 1 January 2019;

10. *Recalls* Executive Board decision 2017/14 to improve future structured dialogues on financing and to present a proposal to the Executive Board no later than the second regular session of 2018 on how it plans to use the structured dialogue on financing as a tool to improve the quality and transparency of funding and to better match resources to the outcomes of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, and encourages UNICEF to provide in advance an overview of funding gaps in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, taking into account both regular and other resources;

11. *Welcomes* the UNICEF Executive Director's commitment to implementing resolutions 71/243 and 72/279 and in this regard encourages the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF to work together with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme to produce a joint response to the joint meeting of the Executive Boards segment on working methods by no later than four weeks before the second regular session 2018, allowing for a consultation process among Member States ahead of that session of 2018;

12. *Encourages* the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF to continue pursuing ways to improve the working methods of the Executive Board and to generate additional cost savings, including in the preparation of formal Executive Board documents in compliance with the rules on the official and working languages of UNICEF, and decides to consider the number of yearly field visits of the Executive Board of UNICEF at the September Board session 2018.

Annual session
13 June 2018

2018/8
Update on UNICEF actions on strengthening protections (a) against sexual exploitation and abuse and (b) against workplace sexual harassment

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Executive Director's zero tolerance of both sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and appreciates the actions that UNICEF has taken so far to prevent and manage sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, implement further institutional and cultural changes and ensure a joined-up, system-wide, coherent approach;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the independent evaluation that UNICEF is undertaking of its policies and processes on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and the Independent Task Force on workplace gender discrimination and harassment, and requests UNICEF to present the evaluation and Task Force reports and associated management responses to the Executive Board;

3. *Requests* UNICEF management, as required under the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, to present its annual certification to the Executive Board at each annual session, to cover sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, as appropriate, complementing and strengthening its existing reporting, and to provide updates on progress made in that regard, including working with the office of the Victims' Rights Advocate for the United Nations, and further urges UNICEF to consider how to align reporting formats and content with other agencies, where appropriate;

4. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Executive Board of UNICEF to consider the possibility of discussing the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries and sexual harassment in the workplace at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, UNICEF, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme in order to increase the efficiency of the Boards and avoid duplication.

Annual session
14 June 2018

2018/9
Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action (E/ICEF/2018/10);

2. *Welcomes* the increase in dialogue between the UNICEF secretariat and the Executive Board on the critical work of UNICEF in humanitarian action, including through the delivery of the first annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action;

3. *Requests* that future annual reports on UNICEF humanitarian action reflect the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, where humanitarian action is mainstreamed in each Goal Area and is a cross-cutting theme, and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, and also requests UNICEF to reflect progress achieved in all geographic regions in a more inclusive manner in subsequent reports.

Annual session
12 June 2018

2018/10
Evaluation reports and management responses and revised evaluation policy of UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2017 on the evaluation function in UNICEF (E/ICEF/2018/15);

2. *Welcomes* the good progress on evaluation of UNICEF activities, but notes with concern that spending on evaluation as a percentage of total programme expenditure decreased in 2017 and has consistently failed over recent years to reach the target of 1 per cent of programme expenditure as set out in the UNICEF evaluation policy and emphasized in previous Executive Board decisions, and therefore requests UNICEF to reach the target by the end of 2019;

3. *Notes* that the thematic distribution of evaluations in the period 2014–2016 shows a sharp drop in the number of sector-specific evaluations for education and child protection, and calls on UNICEF to ensure a stable delivery rate;

4. *Welcomes* the improvement in the evaluation coverage of cross-cutting themes, and requests UNICEF to include gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in all evaluations and to increase the coverage rate of humanitarian action to one that better reflects the current overall spending of UNICEF in contexts of conflicts and crises;

5. *Takes note* of the reported number of evaluations submitted per region, and requests UNICEF, for especially those regions with the largest programme expenses, to significantly increase evaluation coverage;

6. *Requests* that future annual reports be structured around the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 (policy areas and spending) and the revised evaluation policy of UNICEF;

7. *Recalls* its decision 2018/2, and takes note of the importance of joint evaluations with other entities, including joint evaluation of the common chapter of the strategic plans of the funds and programmes, and calls on the Evaluation Office and UNICEF to brief the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2018 on planning for this joint evaluation as part of its contribution to broader collaboration on joint evaluations of system-wide

activities and to the function of system-wide independent evaluation measures;

8. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNICEF strategies and programmes to reduce stunting in children under 5 years of age and its executive summary (E/ICEF/2018/16), looks forward to the implementation of the actions described in the management response, and requests an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the evaluation at the annual session of the Executive Board in 2019;

9. *Welcomes* the final proposal for the revised evaluation policy of UNICEF (E/ICEF/2018/14);

10. *Also welcomes* the open and constructive collaboration with Member States in the development of the revised evaluation policy;

11. *Requests* UNICEF to fully implement consistently the revised evaluation policy across all areas of the organization, including different policy areas at headquarters and at the field level, including capacity-building at the country and programme levels;

12. *Endorses* the revised evaluation policy.

Annual session
13 June 2018

2018/11
Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2017

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2017 (E/ICEF/2018/13);

2. *Appreciates* the successful outreach activities of the Ethics Office of UNICEF, which led to an enormous increase in the number of requests in 2017, and welcomes the results of the innovative Ethics Dialogue Facilitator Model, raising awareness of ethics and integrity organization-wide through facilitators and with limited resources;

3. *Requests* the Ethics Office to engage proactively in the implementation and coordination of actions against sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries and sexual harassment in the workplace, in accordance with its mandate, and also requests the Ethics Office to provide dedicated and more-detailed reporting on its activities against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in its future reports;

4. *Recalls* that the Ethics Office views the operationalization of the UNICEF Child Safeguarding Policy as unfinished business, and in this regard requests the Ethics Office to provide an assessment in its 2019 annual report on progress, challenges and recommendations for improvements;

5. *Also recalls* that the Ethics Office views that there is an absence of an established policy of when, how and in what format it should be consulted on matters of ethics standard-setting and policy support, and in this regard requests the Ethics Office and management to formalize this policy, to be set out in the 2019 annual report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF;

6. *Requests* UNICEF to conduct an assessment of the level of resources provided to the Ethics Office, with a view to ensuring that the Office has the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate;

7. *Also requests* UNICEF to provide a separate management response to the key findings and recommendations of the annual report of the Ethics Office, and to submit this

report to the Executive Board, along with the annual report of the Ethics Office, starting with the annual session of 2019;

8. *Further requests* UNICEF to share a summary of the results and recommendations of the Global Staff Survey 2017 with the Executive Board, and calls upon UNICEF to take appropriate and effective steps to further improve the speak-up culture within the organization.

Annual session
13 June 2018

2018/12
Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2017 annual report to the Executive Board

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2017 annual report to the Executive Board (E/ICEF/2018/AB/L.2), including the overall assurance opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organization's framework of governance, risk management and control, and encourages the Office to continue to develop the accompanying rationale to aid the Board's understanding of the functioning of key processes;

2. *Welcomes* the supporting analysis for the assurance opinion of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations, and also welcomes the progress made to develop and implement the Office's strategic road map, and requests the Office to include reporting against further key performance indicators related to their work in future annual reports, starting with the report to be presented at the annual session of the Executive Board in 2019;

3. *Requests* the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations to provide more detailed analysis of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries and sexual harassment in the workplace in accordance with its mandate, including allegations, investigations and actions taken, in its 2018 annual report to the Executive Board;

4. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations, in its annual report, confirms that it will conduct work in 2018 to provide assurance that a coherent and effective approach to child protection and safeguarding is successfully embedded in and mainstreamed across UNICEF, and in this regard, requests that (a) the Office, in its assessment and assurance, make specific recommendations for improvements in the approach and policies of UNICEF, as appropriate; and (b) the Office and management develop a system for monitoring progress against key performance indicators, to be reported on in future annual reports of the Office;

5. *Welcomes* the Office's increased focus on key risk areas, the increasing number of internal audits of offices operating in complex humanitarian situations and the efforts to reduce the turnover time of reports to provide timely information to stakeholders;

6. *Takes note* of the Office's plans to undertake an external quality assessment of its audit and investigation teams, and asks the Office to include a summary of key findings and details of progress in implementing its recommendations in its next annual report;

7. *Also takes note* of the fact that no internal audit reports were rated adverse, but also of the decrease in reports rated satisfactory and the increase in reports rated strongly qualified, and encourages UNICEF to continue to develop quality;

8. *Further takes note* of the actions reported in response to the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2016 annual report and Executive Board decision 2017/10, and requests an update on the implementation of actions in response to the Office's 2017 annual report at the annual session of the UNICEF Executive Board in 2019;

9. *Takes note* of the decreased implementation rate of audit recommendations in 2017 compared with 2016, and encourages UNICEF management to implement outstanding audit recommendations and to ensure appropriate follow-up of key improvement areas, such as risk management, the management of implementing partners, fraud risk management and safeguarding, and to update the Executive Board at its annual session in June 2019;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts to minimize the number of actions outstanding for more than 18 months;

11. *Takes note* of the recommendations made to management by the Audit Advisory Committee, and encourages management to consider all recommendations by the Committee;

12. *Welcomes* the implementation of an anti-fraud strategy, and requests the Office to include in future annual reports an analysis of the channels by which allegations of fraud and other misconduct are detected or reported to the Office;

13. *Notes with concern* the consistently low level of recovery of defrauded funds, in particular with regard to third parties, and reiterates its call for management to do all that it can to ensure the timely recovery of any potential loss in investigated cases, and requests UNICEF management to provide, in future management responses, details, broken down by calendar year, of aggregate losses over prior years and cumulative recoveries to date against each year's losses;

14. *Notes with appreciation* that the Office reports that it was allocated appropriate and sufficient resources in 2017, and requests UNICEF to continue to allocate sufficient resources for the Office to ensure a satisfactory number of internal audits and investigations each year;

15. *Requests* UNICEF to continue to focus efforts on improving investigation timelines, noting the increasing number of cases pending for investigation from year to year.

Annual session
13 June 2018

Second regular session

2018/13
Proposed programme of work for the Executive Board sessions in 2019

The Executive Board

Adopts the programme of work for the Executive Board sessions in 2019 as a flexible framework subject to revisions as appropriate in the course of the year.

Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP (date to be confirmed)

First regular session *5–8 February 2019*	*Annual session* *11–14 June 2019*	*Second regular session* *11–13 September 2019*
Organizational and procedural matters	**Organizational and procedural matters**	**Organizational and procedural matters**
Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Executive Board *(D)* (8 January 2019)[1]		Proposed programme of work for the Executive Board sessions in 2020 *(D)*
Programme and policy matters	**Programme and policy matters**	**Programme and policy matters**
UNICEF programme cooperation:	Annual report for 2018 of the Executive Director of UNICEF *(D)*	UNICEF programme cooperation:
Country programme documents *(D)*	UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit[2] *(I)*	Country programme documents *(D)*
Extensions of ongoing country programmes *(D)*	Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action *(D)*	Extensions of ongoing country programmes *(D)*
Oral report on UNICEF follow-up to recommendations and decisions of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Programme Coordinating Board meetings *(I)*	Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 *(I)*	Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 *(I)*
Update on UNICEF humanitarian action *(I)*	UNICEF programme cooperation:	Oral update on UNICEF humanitarian action *(I)*
	Country programme documents *(D)*	
	Extensions of ongoing country programmes *(D)*	
Evaluation, audit and oversight matters	**Evaluation, audit and oversight matters**	**Evaluation, audit and oversight matters**
Evaluation reports and management responses *(D)*	Annual report for 2018 on the evaluation function in UNICEF *(D)*, and management response	Evaluation reports and management responses *(D)*
	Evaluation reports and management responses *(D)*	

[1] This date is tentative.
[2] The report is considered under the agenda item, "Annual report of the Executive Director of UNICEF".

	Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2018 *(D)*, and management response	
	Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2018 annual report to the Executive Board *(D)*, and management response	
	UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2018 annual report *(I)*	
	Update on policies and processes of UNICEF on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment	
Resource, financial and budgetary matters	**Resource, financial and budgetary matters**	**Resource, financial and budgetary matters**
UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 and report of the Board of Auditors *(D)*, and management response		UNICEF Strategic Plan: updated financial estimates, 2019–2022 *(D)*
Private Fundraising and Partnerships: 2019 workplan and proposed budget *(D)*		Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2018 *(I)*
Oral update on the work of the National Committees for UNICEF *(I)*		
Other matters	**Other matters**	**Other matters**
Provisional list of agenda items for the annual session of 2019	Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association	Provisional list of agenda items for the first regular session of 2020
	Reports of the field visits of the Executive Board *(I)*	
	Provisional list of agenda items for the second regular session of 2019	

Note: *(D)* — *For decision*: The secretariat prepares documentation on the agenda item. The Executive Board is expected to discuss and adopt a decision under the agenda item.

(I) — *For information*: The secretariat prepares documentation for information. The Executive Board may opt to take a decision under the agenda item.

Second regular session
14 September 2018

2018/14
Working methods

The Executive Board

1. *Reaffirms* the rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UNICEF;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the joint response prepared by the secretariats of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UNICEF, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to the 2018 joint meeting of the Executive Boards segment on working methods;

3. *Requests* the secretariat of the UNICEF Executive Board to circulate draft decisions at least two weeks prior to each session so that the draft decisions are available at the pre-session, and strongly encourages the Bureau to appoint, at that time, the facilitators for the respective draft decisions, in full respect to equitable regional representation, and in this regard strongly encourages Member States to provide their comments on draft decisions, if possible, prior to the start of the session, with a view to starting informal consultations on the draft decisions on the first day of the session;

4. *Also requests* UNICEF and the members of the Executive Board to make efforts to start all meetings, informal briefings and informal consultations on time and ensure that meetings, informal briefings and informal consultations are planned during United Nations working hours and avoid parallel consultations, to better facilitate the effective and constructive participation of all Member States in the work of the Board;

5. *Further requests* that the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF identify a set of common agenda items, together with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, with a view to harmonizing the consideration of those agenda items with these agencies, beginning from the first regular session of 2019 onwards;

6. *Requests* the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF to develop, in consultation with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS and UN-Women, a joint online calendar of all Board meetings, to be updated in real time and made available to the Executive Board;

7. *Also requests* UNICEF management to provide a written response to questions raised at informal briefings, upon written request by Member States, before the start of the following formal session;

8. *Further requests* UNICEF to continue to enhance documentation in order to make it more strategic and analytical, and to include best practices, actions being taken to address lessons learned, challenges and risks, building on the interactions with the Board, as appropriate;

9. *Requests* UNICEF to further enhance accessibility and ensure that the file names of Executive Board documents are clearly spelled out and indicate the content of the documents, that these documents can be downloaded in their entirety by agency and that they include full text searchability;

10. *Also requests* UNICEF to engage with the Executive Board and with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP on the efficient and effective

implementation of the guidelines for Executive Board field visits and reporting requirements;

11. *Further requests* UNICEF and its Bureau to give due consideration to gender balance in panels for all meetings;

12. *Requests* the Bureau of UNICEF, in collaboration with the Bureaux of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, to launch a joint consultative process with Member States starting at the first regular session of 2019, with a view to examining the efficiency and quality of its current sessions, as well as the functions of the joint meeting of the Boards, building on the joint response prepared by the secretariats;

13. *Reaffirms* Executive Board decision 2014/1 and recognizes the significant efficiencies created by rationalizing the country programme document approval process and by allowing Member States to place their comments electronically and finalizing the country programme documents at least six weeks ahead of the session, and recommends that UNICEF considers to improve country programme document presentation;

14. *Decides* to eliminate the yearly field visit of the Bureau of the Executive Board of UNICEF, so as to harmonize with the practice of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, and encourages Bureau members to seek to participate in one of the two other field visits that are available for their participation: the Executive Board field visit and the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP.

Second regular session
14 September 2018

2018/15
Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;

2. *Requests* UNICEF to review the format and content of the report on the structured dialogue on financing, in order to further improve the quality of the structured dialogue on financing, including by providing an overview of the funding in relation to the funding requirements for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, taking into account both regular and other resources;

3. *Encourages* UNICEF to continue working jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to improve collaboration on structured funding dialogues;

4. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General's transition team and other programmes, funds and specialized agencies, to implement General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; also welcomes the updates provided with preliminary analysis of the financial and other implications of the resolution, and requests

UNICEF to continue to engage with the Executive Board in this regard, providing regular updates as of 2019;

5. *Recalls* decision 2018/5 and requests UNICEF to double its contribution to the existing United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) cost-sharing arrangement, in accordance with resolution 72/279, to deposit its 2019 contribution as soon as possible, taking into account the Secretary-General's implementation plan, in order to operationalize the new resident coordinator system as of 1 January 2019, and to report on progress in this regard to the Executive Board at the annual session of 2019;

6. *Requests* that UNICEF present clear, transparent information on its contribution to resident coordinator funding modalities to the Executive Board at the annual session of 2019;

7. *Also requests* that UNICEF, as part of the UNSDG, collaborate with the Secretary-General's transition team to support the establishment of a system-wide approach to implementing all the funding modalities set out in resolution 72/279, including the levy, and to report to the Executive Board at the first regular session of 2019;

8. *Calls* on UNICEF to review its planning, financing and results reporting processes to ensure effective joint collaboration in the context of the revitalized United Nations Development Assistance Framework and to provide an update at the next session of the Executive Board on adjustments required.

Second regular session
14 September 2018

2018/16
Country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* that the country programme documents for Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Libya, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Senegal, South Sudan and Togo and the subregional programme document for the Gulf Area (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates) (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.8–E/ICEF/2018/P/L.22/Rev.1), including aggregate indicative budgets, were made available to Member States for their comments and input from 19 June to 9 July 2018, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1 on modifications to procedures for consideration and approval of country programme documentation;

2. *Approves* on a no-objection basis, and in accordance with decision 2014/1, the country programme documents for Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Libya, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Senegal, South Sudan and Togo and the subregional programme document for the Gulf Area (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates) (E/ICEF/2018/P/L.8–E/ICEF/2018/P/L.22/Rev.1), including aggregate indicative budgets.

Second regular session
13 September 2018

2018/17
Extensions of ongoing country programmes

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the two-month extension of the country programme for Niger and the first one-year extension of the country programme for Timor-Leste, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1 of document E/ICEF/2018/P/L.23;

2. *Approves* the one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia, following previous one-year extensions, as presented in table 2 of document E/ICEF/2018/P/L.23.

Second regular session
14 September 2018

2018/18
Evaluation reports and management responses

The Executive Board

Takes note of the evaluation of the UNICEF Level 3 response to the cholera epidemic in Yemen: crisis within a crisis, its executive summary (E/ICEF/2018/21) and its management response (E/ICEF/2018/22).

Second regular session
14 September 2018

2018/19
UNICEF Strategic Plan: updated financial estimates, 2018–2021

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the planned financial estimates for the period 2018–2021 as contained in document E/ICEF/2018/AB/L.4 as a flexible framework for supporting UNICEF programmes;

2. *Approves* the integrated resources framework of planned financial estimates for the period 2018–2021 and approves the preparation of country programme expenditure submissions to the Executive Board of up to $710 million from regular resources in 2019, subject to the availability of resources and the continued validity of these planned financial estimates;

3. *Encourages* future financial planning documents to continue to include a separate budget item for both the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and the Evaluation Office, in line with Executive Board decisions 2017/10, paragraph 14 and 2017/14, paragraph 9 (d);

4. *Requests* UNICEF to provide annual updates to the Executive Board on the progress of funding its reserves for staff liabilities.

Second regular session
14 September 2018

2018/20
Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2017

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2017 (E/ICEF/2018/AB/L.5);

2. *Recognizes* the funding model of UNICEF, which relies on significant contributions from the private sector;

3. *Requests* UNICEF to present the performance of the National Committees and field offices separately, both with and without structured fundraising activities, in future financial reports;

4. *Also requests* UNICEF to provide in its report presented at the 2019 second regular session, and in regard to its non-financial engagement with the business sector, its strategy for scaling up current results and the result of its collaboration with the other United Nations agencies;

5. *Encourages* UNICEF to allocate adequate resources to provide robust support to its regional and country offices for its non-financial engagement with the business sector.

Second regular session
14 September 2018

2018/21
Joint report on cost recovery

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* Executive Board decision 2013/5, which endorsed the current harmonized cost-recovery policy, and in this regard recognizes and welcomes the efforts of UNICEF, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in implementing the policy;

2. *Also recalls* Executive Board decisions 2017/7 and 2017/14, in which the Executive Board directed the agencies to implement the cost-recovery policy and ensure full cost recovery proportionally from regular and other resources funding sources, and provide incentives to increase regular resources funding;

3. *Takes note* of the report DP/FPA/ICEF-UNW/2018/1 and the two proposals for the recovery of indirect costs presented therein;

4. *Notes* paragraph 28 (d) of General Assembly resolution 72/279, which calls for a further harmonization of cost recovery by individual United Nations development system entities, and in this regard commends UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women for their harmonized cost-recovery framework and encourages them to work with other entities of the United Nations development system, after due consideration by their respective governing bodies, to adopt a harmonized cost-recovery framework;

5. *Requests* UNICEF, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, to jointly review existing cost definitions and classifications of activities and associated

costs, with a view to further harmonize their approaches by determining common definitions of cost categories and corresponding activities and functions at a granular level, while taking into account the different business models of the individual agencies, which allows for a full understanding of each categories' composition, options for possible alignment of similar functions to the same cost classifications across agencies, and continues to provide a basis for comparisons among organizations as well as alignment with the strategic plans of the organizations, to be presented to the Executive Board for decision at its second regular session in 2019;

6. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the harmonized cost-recovery policy endorsed by the Executive Board in its decision 2013/5, and requests UNICEF, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, to present a preliminary comprehensive proposal on the cost-recovery policy for consideration by the Executive Board at its first regular session in 2020, with a view to present a final comprehensive proposal for decision of the Executive Board at its second regular session in 2020;

7. *Requests* UNICEF, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, to reduce the granting of waivers lowering the agreed cost-recovery rates and to provide an update on the steps taken in this regard, including on the application of waivers across their organizations, to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2019;

8. *Also requests* UNICEF, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, to review in a comprehensive manner cost-recovery rates, as part of the comprehensive proposal;

9. *Further requests* UNICEF, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, to present an assessment of the reasons why full cost recovery is not currently being achieved, as part of the comprehensive proposal.

Second regular session
14 September 2018